

THE WASHINGTON POST AND TIMES HERALD, Monday, 13 July 1959

Castro Hits U. S. Quiz of Diaz

By Robert Berrellez

HAVANA, July 12. (AP) — Prime Minister Castro charged that by taking testimony from Maj. Luis Diaz Wanz, former Cuban Air Force chief who fled to the United States, a United States Senate subcommittee interfered in Cuba's internal affairs.

Castro called Diaz "the Benedict Arnold of Cuba."

Castro angrily told a television audience last night that the Internal Security Subcommittee's action was unfriendly, and confirmed "our suspicion that foreign agents were involved" in Diaz' defection and accusation that Cuba's armed forces were peppered with Communists.

Tentative plans call for the subcommittee to hold a public hearing in Washington with Diaz Monday. Informants said the subcommittee already has heard him twice in secret.

Castro said the entire matter could go before the Organization of American States—a group whose services Castro spurned after charges that his regime was backing armed expeditions against the Dominican Republic.

He charged that the Senate subcommittee encouraged

traitors by receiving "in secret session the Benedict Arnold of Cuba," and asked what Americans would think if their army chief "became a traitor, a deserter and the revolutionary government (of Cuba) would receive him with honors in a secret meeting?"

Castro, who has repeatedly denied that communism poses any threat to Cuba, declared the subcommittee hearings would not strengthen Cuban-U. S. relations "because friends are won with friendship and not with threats."

The speech, reflecting sentiments of many Cubans who oppose all criticism of their present regime, was one of the bitterest attacks Castro has made on the United States since he assumed power Jan. 1.

Meanwhile, Acting Foreign Minister Armando Hart said Cuba would soon formally request the extradition of former Sen. Rolando Masferrer and other backers of former

President Fulgencio Batista who have fled to the United States. Batista is in Ciudad Trujillo, capital of the Dominican Republic.

Hart also said the government is considering asking that Diaz be extradited.

In an obvious reference to

authority recently granted President Eisenhower to reduce foreign aid to countries confiscating American properties without proper compensation, Castro declared, "We cannot count now with anything but our own people."

Sen. Internal Security
A 6 Saturday, July 11, 1959 THE WASHINGTON POST

Senators Hear Castro Defector

By David Kraslow
Chicago Daily News Service

The most important defector from Fidel Castro's revolutionary regime in Cuba told his story in secret yesterday to Senate investigators.

Citizen Panel Head Wins Fourth Term

The District Commissioners' Citizens Advisory Council unanimously reelected Edward Burling Jr. to a fourth term as chairman yesterday.

Burling, 51, of 1339 29th st. ne., is a partner in the law firm of Covington & Burling. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, he has been a resident of Washington since 1917.

Also unanimously reelected to one-year terms on the 9-member body were William J. Smith, special representative of the executive department of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co., first vice chairman; and Garnett C. Wilkinson, retired first assistant superintendent of District public schools, second vice chairman.

Geoffrey M. Thornett, secretary to the District Commissioners, is permanent secretary to the Council.



Burling

Maj. Pedro Diaz Lanz, former chief of Castro's Air Force, was "delivered" to Chairman James Eastland (D-Miss.) of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Diaz has been a hot pawn in an amazing cloak-and-dagger tug of war ever since he and his wife escaped from Cuba to Miami in a small boat on July 1.

Diaz quit the Cuban Air Force with a blast at Castro, charging Communist penetration into Cuba's armed forces.

Castro denounced Diaz as a traitor and ordered his arrest.

Joseph Swing, head of the Immigration Service, kept Diaz' arrival secret for a week.

Central Intelligence Agency and State Department officials termed the Immigration Service's move "most irregular."

Officials are afraid the Diaz maneuver will play right into Castro's hands, negating what value might have been attached to Diaz' defection.

Eastland last September said some kind things about Castro's mortal enemy, Dictator Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, in addressing a joint session of the Dominican legislature.

Thus, officials here will not be surprised if Castro cites Diaz' appearance before the Committee as "proof" that Diaz' defection was part of a "plot" arranged by Trujillo supporters in the United States.

Diaz already has been interviewed by CIA and FBI agents.

THE WASHINGTON POST AND TIMES HERALD - Sunday, 12 July 1959

Anti-Castro Quarters Raided

HAVANA, July 11 (UPI) — Troops fought their way into the headquarters of an alleged anti-Fidel Castro organization and killed one man in suburban Guanabacoa today.

Authorities reported seven accused conspirators were arrested as police and the armed forces pressed a campaign to wipe out "terrorist" resistance to Fidel Castro.

The Government said it also arrested the head of a new anti-Castro band called "The Western Anti-Revolutionary Organization" in another raid. He was identified as Juan Walfrido Despaigne Moret, 24, a former soldier in the army of exiled dictator Fulgencio Batista.

Despaigne later escaped from his cell, touching off an intensive man hunt.

Despaigne's father, a lieutenant in the Batista army,

was executed by Castro's forces for killing 35 Castro rebels.

Police were seeking the identity of a carload of men who shot up suburban Luyano early this morning and then fled afoot after abandoning their car. The vehicle bore official license plates.

Officials said they were tipped off that a band opposed to Castro had gathered in a private home in Guanabacoa to plot a program of terror and sabotage to coincide with the forthcoming July 26 anniversary of Castro's rebel movement.

When the soldiers charged into the home, the district military commander said, they "encountered resistance" and were forced to open fire.

The raiders found a portrait of Batista on the wall of the home which used a gambling

salon as a "front," the commander said.

Other Government agents were busy trying to track down the owners of anti-Castro leaflets which were hurled into the streets and gardens in suburban Vedado.

Diaz Lanz Testimony May Anger Cubans

HAVANNA, July 11 (AP) — The appearance of former Cuban Air Force chief Pedro Diaz Lanz before public hearing of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, tentatively set for Monday, is expected to inflame the anti-Americanism among supporters of Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Observers predicted Castro himself would be angry on learning of Diaz Lanz' appear-

ance. The former Air Force chief has already appeared at a secret session of the subcommittee.

Diaz Lanz resigned June 20 charging that Cuba's armed forces were infiltrated with Communists. Castro and his followers have repeatedly denied this.

Acting Foreign Minister Armando Hart told newsmen his government would soon formally request the extradition of former Sen. Rolando Masferrer and other supporters of former dictator Fulgencio Batista who have taken refuge in the United States.

Asked if Cuba would seek the extradition of Diaz Lanz, whose resignation and flight Castro called a "cruel blow to the revolution," Hart said "that is under consideration but we will deal with the war criminals first."

Eastland
Johnston, Olin
Ervin, Sam J.
Dodd

Miss.
S.C.
N.C.
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HRUSKA
DIRKSEN
KEATING

NEB.
ILL.
N.Y.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, July 24, 1959

C15

Defecting Cuban Chief 'Exploited'

By Drew Pearson

The inside story can now be told how Immigration Commissioner Joe Swing and Red-hunter Julian Sourwine kept Fidel Castro's escaped Air Force chief, Maj. Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, away from the State Department until they could exploit him for their own purposes.



Pearson

Their conspiracy resulted in sensational headlines that severely damaged Pan-American relations. It also gave Castro an opportunity to blast the U. S. for interfering in Cuban affairs when actually we have remained meticulously out.

What most North Americans may not realize is that Sen. James Eastland of Mississippi, Chairman of the Internal Security Subcommittee, is unpopular with dark-skinned Latin Americans not only for advocating white supremacy but for championing the Dominican Republic's hated dictator, Rafael Trujillo. So when Major Lanz testified under Eastland's auspices, it played right into Castro's hands.

Major Lanz happens to be against all dictators, whether it is Castro, under whom he once fought, or Trujillo, whose kind he fought against. But being innocent of American politics, Lanz was easily hoodwinked by Eastland's agents. Result: By reminding Latin America that Eastland had praised Dictator Trujillo lavishly in a speech to the Dominican legislature, Castro was able to discount the sincere young major's testimony.

Here is how he was maneuvered away from the State Department into Eastland's clutches.

How They Escaped

Before he fled from Cuba, Lanz used Associated Press correspondent Harold Milks as a go-between to inform the American Embassy of his plans to defect. His half brother, Sergio Diaz Brull, sailed into Havana harbor in a sailboat to pick him up.

The brothers loaded a small arsenal of weapons aboard the boat before casting off. They were accompanied by Lanz's 19-year-old wife, Tania, and a faithful friend, Carlos Eche-goyen.

Upon their arrival at a Miami oil dock, Brull promptly called the customs office,

which notified immigration authorities. When they discovered the Cuban wetbacks included Castro's former Air Force head, District Immigration Director Edward Ahrens in Miami sent word to Commissioner Swing in Washington.

Army Intelligence officers, who had been tipped off by the military attache in Havana, also showed up. But upon orders from General Swing, a West Point classmate of Eisenhower's, the immigration authorities whisked Lanz away from Army Intelligence and held him incommunicado on a yacht. The State Department, which is supposed to handle international matters, was kept in the dark.

Eastland Group Notified

Instead, Swing called Eastland's committee and reported Lanz's arrival to its counsel, Julian Sourwine. Recognizing the headline value of such a prize witness, Sourwine arranged with Swing for Lanz to be turned over to the committee.

The first hearing was held behind closed doors, after which Sourwine solemnly instructed the Major not to speak to newspapermen for at least a week. What Lanz

didn't know was that Sourwine had arranged to let a friend, Milwaukee publicity man Robert Siegrist, break the exclusive story.

But Sourwine hadn't calculated on Connecticut's Sen. Tom Dodd, a Committee member, who refused to keep the closed-door testimony secret even for a week.

When Dodd threatened to release it himself, Lanz was hastily called back to repeat in open session what he had told the Committee behind closed doors. At one point, the hearing was dramatically interrupted while a bomb-disposal crew searched the room for an alleged bomb.

After the hearing, Sourwine secretly sent Lanz to Robert Siegrist's home in Milwaukee "for security reasons." With cavalier disregard for his guest's security, however, Siegrist arranged a radio interview at his home and negotiated to sell Lanz's story to Life magazine.

Life finally paid \$2000 for the right to the Lanz story, and the Cuban refugee dutifully allowed himself to be interviewed by Siegrist.

Then, sick of all the fanfare, Lanz fled from Milwaukee, as he had from Cuba, to seek a quiet life in Texas.

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Bomb Scare Disrupts Hearing Of Former Castro Air Chief

By James Clayton
Staff Reporter

In a Congressional hearing dramatically interrupted by a bomb scare, Fidel Castro's former Air Force Chief yesterday charged that Castro has brought a Communist dictatorship to Cuba instead of the liberty and freedom he promised.

The Chief, Maj. Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, told the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee that Castro, his brother Raul, and other high Cuban officials are Communists. He said Castro is turning Cuba into a Caribbean center for communism.

Diaz had just begun this testimony when the subcommittee recessed and Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) announced that he had been reliably informed "that an attempt will be made to injure the witness."

Hearing Room Searched

While Diaz and his 19-year-old wife, Tania, waited with a half dozen Senators in an adjoining room and newsmen and spectators waited in the hall, police and soldiers searched the hearing room in the New Senate Office Building.

The soldiers were seen turning over chairs and using what appeared to be bomb detection equipment.

After a delay of almost an hour, newsmen and spectators were readmitted to the room under careful screening by Capitol policemen who barred packages and looked under raincoats.

Then the hearing resumed, with a half dozen uniformed officers scattered around the walls and another stationed outside the windows on the roof of another portion of the building.

Said To Be FBI Tip

Eastland said after the hearing that no bomb or other dangerous weapon had been found in the search. He would not reveal where he obtained his information on the threat but other sources indicated that it came from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Diaz has been in Washington for a week and has appeared before the subcommittee in secret session. He has been assigned a 24-hour guard by the Metropolitan Police Department at the Subcommittee's request.

Diaz was heard in public session over the objection of the State Department and the denunciation of the subcommittee by Castro. Castro has called his former fellow revolutionary "the Benedict Arnold of Cuba." The State Department asked that Diaz's testimony be kept secret to soothe Cuban-American relations.

Diaz, 32, defected from the Castro government late in



United Press International

Two military men (right), believed to be members of a bomb disposal team, leave after searching the room in which Maj. Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz was testifying.

June. He escaped in a sailboat, arriving in Miami with his wife, a half-brother, Selgio Diaz Brull, and another man early this month. His wife sat with him yesterday but seemed quite nervous.

Diaz explained that he joined the Castro movement late in 1956. "I joined Castro because I believed he could bring democracy and freedom to my country," he said.

A former commercial airline pilot, Diaz said he once flew a plane loaded with arms from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to the Cuban mountain hideout of Castro before the revolution succeeded last January.

Asked why he had left the Castro government, Diaz answered, "Because he brought communism to my country."

Diaz said he had heard Castro make many statements which showed attachment to the Communist cause. As an example, he quoted Castro as once saying, "I'm going to give this country a system like Russia has and even better. . . . Some day the banks will disappear. . . . I'm going to take the land of everybody."

Diaz testified that Castro personally directed last month's abortive invasion of the Dominican Republic. He said Castro tried to force him to pilot a plane which landed



United Press International

MAJ. PEDRO LUIS
DIAZ LANZ
... Cuban testifies

troops and guns at Santo Domingo.

Asked specifically by Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.) if he thought Castro and his brother, Raul, are members of an international Communist organization, Diaz replied in broken English that he is a labor leader, as the "top

Communist" in Cuba and he said Communists head the armed forces, defense department, ministry of education, and agrarian reform.

Castro's sharp reaction to Diaz's statements indicated how deeply his defection wounded the bearded Cuban leader. In a speech Monday, Castro shouted that Diaz "was received with honors as if we are threatening the internal security of the United States."

He said it was curious that Eastland, the subcommittee chairman, had made a speech to the legislature of the Dominican Republic last year praising Dominican Dictator Rafael Trujillo.

Castro has been attacking Trujillo as a despot and Trujillo has charged that Castro is behind recent attempts to overthrow the Trujillo regime.

[In Havana, among the first Cuban officials to deny Diaz Lanz's Communist charges was Acting Minister of State, Armando Hart, one of those named by Diaz Lanz as a Communist, Associated Press reported.]

[Emerging from a conference with President Manuel Urrutia, Hart told newsmen: "When they can't call our government corrupt or degenerate, they call us Communists."]